

**City of Kingston Arts Commission
Meeting - Thursday, October 13, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall**

MINUTES

Attendance

Commission members in attendance were: Anne Bailey, Micah Blumenthal, Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, Richard Frumess, Lara Giordano, Susie Linn, Linda Marston-Reid and Ward Mintz.

Absent: Bill Carey, Alderman, Ward 5 (Common Council Liaison)

Guests: Deb Brown, Alderperson, Ward 9

Call to Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 4:35.

September Minutes

Anne asked that a correction be made in the attendance record, which listed her as both in attendance and excused (she was in attendance). Ward moved to approve the September meeting minutes with the change, Lara seconded, and all agreed.

New Commission Chair

Due to his extensive role on the Arts District Steering Committee, Richard expressed his wish to step down as Commission Chair. Ward emphasized the importance of the continued service of the existing Commission Members—as leaders in their respective fields—to the City, and that their overview, leadership, and power are assets that benefit the Commission and the City. Richard agreed to continue serving as a member. Linda nominated Ward to take Richard's place as Co-Chair with Lara, Richard seconded, and all approved.

Ruth Ann will take care of updating the City's web site with the new information.

Susie and Ward will compose a press release.

Deb suggested providing the information to Meghan Weiss for an upcoming e-news blast.

Nominating Committee

We must form a Nominating Committee in order to develop a list of prospective candidates to fill the current opening on the Commission (and future openings) for presentation to Mayor Noble. Richard, Ward, Micah and Lara volunteered to serve on the Committee, Anne moved to approve, Lara seconded, and all approved. Those not serving on the committee will forward candidate suggestions to Ward.

Event Reports

1) ArtWalk Kingston: Linda reported that Kingston's first ArtWalk was a great success with 41 locations and 81 artists participating across the City. She is preparing a participant survey to assess what worked, and what did not, in order to build on next year's event. Ward commented that more artist studios at the Shirt Factory should be open next year. Anne commented that her staff took the opportunity to show their work at Bailey and were sincerely energized. Overall, the audience appeared to be an intelligent crowd that was interested in learning about what they came to see, and many traveled from other areas across the Hudson Valley and NYC.

2) O+: Micah reported the 7th O+ Festival was the best they have experienced to date with fantastic energy at the kickoff event, and 49 artists, 91 musicians, and 46 volunteers coming through the clinic. There were 91 dental visits.

The Festival, with the theme "Mothers of Invention," expanded further into Midtown with murals at People's Place, Keegan Ales, La Hacienda and Art Bar.

For the first time, O+ volunteers went door-to-door to distribute Festival wristbands, which proved to be successful.

3) 2nd Annual Celebration of the Arts/ Midtown Arts District Launch: Richard reported that the event will take place on October 27 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for *Broadway Commons* (formerly Kings Inn/now City public space) and *The Collective* (long-term temporary tent) led by Mayor Noble at 5:00, followed by performances with brief speeches from 5:30 to 7:30. Ulster Publishing will produce an 8-page insert about the Arts District for the Almanac in all of the weekly regional publications (i.e., Woodstock, New Paltz, Kingston Times)

Performers include Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, the Gold Hope Duo, Peter Wetzler & Elena Eleni Reyes, POOK, Energy, the Flying Kingstonians Brass Band, Pauline Oliveras & Ione, David Temple, and DJ Mapes.

Speakers include the Mayor, Arts District stakeholders, and Arts District Steering Committee leadership. Focus of speeches will be defining the Arts District, presentation of branding/signage materials. Red Goat Awards will be presented to Ev Mann and Nina Dawson.

Old Business

1) Business Cards & Stationery

Susie reported that the Mayor approved the Commission business card design. She will run batches for each Commission member.

All agreed that future correspondence should be printed on Kingston City stationery, which can be obtained from the Clerk's office.

2) Mission Statement Revision

Lara will head a committee charged with revising the Commission's mission statement.

3) Susie will pull together an arts resource list, starting with Richard's excel list, which he will share with her

4) Ward re-addressed the idea of producing a survey of City-owned artwork. He already knows that the City Clerk is nominally responsible for keeping track of this information. He will sit down with her to learn more. Lara mentioned that Jasmine Mitchell is interested in taking on this responsibility when we are ready to move forward.

5) We will add Bill Carey to the agenda (Ward/Lara) and minutes (Ruth Ann) distribution lists.

New Business

Deb mentioned that the City Budget will host a November meeting that the Commission should attend to voice the need for funding for Commission projects. She will let us know the date.

Next Meeting

The next Arts Commission meeting will take place on **Thursday, November 10 at 4:30 p.m.** at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.